

Remark

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 8, 13 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-23 are present for examination.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Fukuda

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 13-15 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuda et al, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0172332 ("Fukuda"). Fukuda has a digital television receiver 101 coupled through a 1394 interface 221, 203 to a tuner 102. Remote control 104 commands are received at an interface 228, passed to a control unit 230 and then sent through the 1394 interfaces to the tuner. The reference describes how the tuner generates a remote control display panel 202 that is displayed on the TV's 101 display 101.

Referring, as an example, to Claim 1, it recites, the tuner "to receive commands in a first protocol specific to the tuner at the external control interface." The Examiner reads this on the first communication protocol as described in Fukuda para. 57. As explained there this protocol packetizes encoded video and transfers the packets as "stream data."

Claim 1 further recites, "a graphics controller to generate commands in a second generalized protocol." The Examiner reads this on the second communication protocol as described in Fukuda para. 58. As explained there, this "protocol is highly reliable... and is suitable for the transfer of the object data which do not require real-time property."

Claim 1 further recites, “a microcontroller... to receive the commands from the graphics controller in the second protocol, to convert the commands from the second protocol to the first protocol, and to transmit the converted commands to the external control interface of the tuner.” The Examiner offers a lengthy explanation to read this onto Fukuda. The Examiner suggests that the control unit 204 (microcontroller) receives commands from the control unit 230 (graphics controller) through the 1394 interface (external interface) of the tuner in the second protocol. The tuner control unit 204 then converts these commands into remote control panel display and sends them to the 1394 interface of the tuner in the second protocol. (Applicants will assume that the Examiner meant to refer to the first protocol in the last instance. Otherwise the claim cannot be met by the Examiner’s suggestion.)

First, as is clear from paragraph 56, the remote control panel is indeed sent from the tuner through the 1394 interface using the second protocol. However, the claim recites “to convert from the second protocol to the first protocol.” This is enough to traverse the Examiner’s rejection.

Second, the Examiner has ignored the recited connections between the first and third paragraph of Claim 1. In the Examiner’s reading of the third paragraph, commands are sent from the TV control unit to the tuner control unit through the 1394 interface. These are converted to remote control panels and sent back to the TV control unit again through the 1394 interface. Claim 1 has been clarified to recite that the commands are sent to the tuner through the external interface. Further clarifying the recited connections.

In Claim 1, third paragraph, the converted commands are transmitted to the external control interface of the tuner. In the first paragraph, however, the tuner receives commands at the external control interface. However, the remote control panel is not being received by the tuner 102, nor the tuner unit 201. They are generated by the tuner and sent to the TV.

Third, Claim 1 recites that the tuner is to “receive commands in a first protocol specific to the tuner at the external control interface.” The Examiner’s reading would require that the tuner 101 of Fukuda receive commands in the first protocol at the 1394 interface of the tuner. While the first protocol of Fukuda is identified as an audio video control protocol, there is no mention of any commands being received by the tuner using that protocol. If commands are sent on the first protocol, they may be sent only to other devices as Fukuda’s system uses the second protocol for commands.

On the contrary, paragraph 95 describes “asynchronous transfer of such remote control information to the DVR 103 through the asynchronous serial bus connection. This invokes the asynchronous transfer of the second protocol. So the second protocol is used both to the tuner and to the TV.

In brief, Fukuda does not show 1) conversion of commands from one protocol to another, nor 2) a microcontroller between a tuner and a graphics controller to send commands from one to the other. Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over the references. The remaining claims are believed to be allowable on the same or similar grounds, as well as for the additional limitations set forth in each claim, respectively..

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Fukuda and Godwin or Young

The Examiner has rejected the remaining claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda in view of Godwin, U.S. Patent No. 6,772,434 (“Godwin”) or Young, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0194968 (“Young”). These additional references are not cited for and do not show the features absent from Fukuda as described above. Accordingly, these rejections are traversed on similar grounds, *inter alia*.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.



Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary.

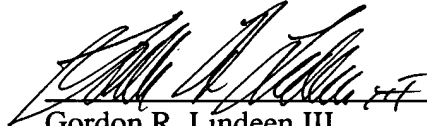
Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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